

What is claimed is:

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1. A decorative cover having a predetermined shape, said decorative cover comprising:

a thin, rigid support base shaped in accordance with the predetermined shape;

an electroluminescent foil overlying said support base; and

an insulating foil overlying said electroluminescent foil; wherein

said support base has a first opening therethrough for insertion of an electrical connector to connect said electroluminescent foil to an electrical power source so as to provide power to said electroluminescent foil; and

said support base, said insulating foil, and said electroluminescent foil have a second opening therethrough for insertion of a control key of a device covered by said decorative cover.

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2. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a graphic between said insulating foil and said electroluminescent foil.

3. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 2, wherein said graphic is printed on said insulating foil.

4. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 2, wherein said graphic is printed on said electroluminescent foil.

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5. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a further foil between said insulating foil and said electroluminescent foil, said further foil having the graphic thereon.

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6. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a second insulating foil between said support base and said electroluminescent foil, said second insulating foil having openings therethrough corresponding with the first and second openings.

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7. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 2, wherein said electroluminescent foil when provided with power, provides white light.

8. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent foil when provided with power, provides white light.

9. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent foil when provided with power, provides colored light.

10. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent foil includes a plurality of electroluminescent foil segments, and wherein said support base and said first insulating foil have a plurality of first holes therethrough for insertion of a plurality of connectors to connect each foil segment separately to the electrical power source so as to provide power separately to each foil segment.

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11. A decorative cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein said foil segments, when provided with power, provide light of various colors.

12. A covered electronic device, said covered electronic device comprising:  
a thin, rigid support base having a first opening therethrough;  
an electroluminescent foil overlying a first surface of said support base;  
an insulating foil overlying said electroluminescent foil, wherein said support base, said insulating foil, and said electroluminescent foil have a second opening therethrough;

a printed circuit board;

a plurality of electronic components mounted on said printed circuit board and electrically interconnected to form an electronic unit, said electronic components including a control key for said electronic unit, said control key extending through said second opening;

a connector extending through said first opening to connect said electroluminescent foil to circuitry on said printed circuit board, permitting provision of electrical power to said electroluminescent foil from an electrical power source also connected to said printed circuit board.

13. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a graphic between said insulating foil and said electroluminescent foil.

FOOTNOTES

14. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said graphic is printed on said insulating foil.

15. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said graphic is printed on said electroluminescent foil.

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16. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a further foil between said insulating foil and said electroluminescent foil, said further foil having the graphic thereon.

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17. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a second insulating foil between said support base and said electroluminescent foil, said second insulating foil having openings therethrough corresponding with the first and second openings.

18. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said electroluminescent foil when provided with power, provides white light.

19. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said electroluminescent foil when provided with power, provides white light.

20. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said electroluminescent foil when provided with power, provides colored light.

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21. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said electroluminescent foil includes a plurality of electroluminescent foil segments, and wherein said support base and said first insulating foil have a plurality of first holes therethrough for insertion of a plurality of connecting pins to connect each foil segment separately to the electrical power source so as to provide power separately to each foil segment.

22. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said foil segments, when provided with power, provide light of various colors.

23. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said electronic components comprise telephone components so that the covered electronic device comprises a telephone.

24. A covered electronic device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said telephone components include a ringing circuit coupled to said printed circuit board, to provide power from the electrical power source to said ringing circuit when a call is placed to said telephone, and wherein said circuitry on said printed circuit board connects said electroluminescent foil to said ringing circuit to provide power to said electroluminescent foil when power is provided to said ringing circuit.

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25. A method of making a decorative cover, said process comprising:

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positioning a first insulating foil over a first surface of an electroluminescent foil to form a preliminary cover member;

performing the preliminary cover member into a preselected shape;

punching first holes through the preliminary cover member for passage of control keys therethrough;

placing the preliminary cover member into a mold of the preselected shape, the mold having bosses corresponding with the first and second holes; and

injecting plastic into the mold and into contact with the preliminary cover member to form the decorative cover, the bosses providing holes through the plastic corresponding with the first and second holes.

26. A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising positioning a graphic between said first insulating foil and the electroluminescent foil.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising positioning a second insulating foil beneath a second surface of the electroluminescent foil as a part of the preliminary cover member.

28. A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first insulating foil is laminated onto the first surface of the electroluminescent foil, and the second insulating foil is laminated onto the second surface of the electroluminescent foil.

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29. A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the graphic is affixed on one surface of the first insulating foil before positioning of the first insulating foil over the first surface of the electroluminescent foil, and wherein the first insulating foil is positioned over the first surface of the electroluminescent foil with the graphic adjacent the electroluminescent foil.

30. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the graphic is printed on the first insulating foil.

31. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the graphic is printed on the electroluminescent foil.

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32. A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising positioning a further foil between the first insulating foil and the electroluminescent foil, the further foil having a graphic on a surface thereof adjacent the first insulating foil.

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33. A method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising:  
allowing the plastic to cool; and  
removing the decorative cover from the mold.